

Message Text

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PAGE 01 FLOREN 00198 071500Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL FLORENCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1650
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
AMCONSUL MILAN

UNCLAS FLORENCE 0198

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, IT
SUBJECT: TWO ULTRA-LEFTIST TERRORISTS ARRESTED. FLORENCE HIDE-
AWAY RAIDED

1. FLORENCE QUESTORE ROCCO IN A PRESS CONFERENCE APRIL 2 ANNOUNCED THE ARREST OF TWO ALLEGED MEMBERS OF THE "INITA COMBATTENTE COMUNISTE" AN ULTRA LEFTIST TERRORIST GROUP. THE TWO TWENTY FOUR YEAR OLDS STEFANO NERI AND RENATO BANDOLI WERE PICKED UP SEPARATELY. SUNDAY MORNING APRIL 3 NERI WAS STOPPED ON A HIGHWAY NEAR RAVENNA WHILE BANDOLI WAS ARRESTED SUNDAY NIGHT IN A FLORENCE APARTMENT FOUND TO BE STOCKED WITH KNIVES, PISTOLS, MATERIALS FOR MAKING EXPLOSIVES , MOLOTOV COCKTAILS, PAMPHLETS, A VARIETY OF STOLEN ARTICLES INCLUDING LICENSE PLATES AND PERSONAL DOCUMENTS, SOME STOLEN IN PERSONAL ASSAULTS ELSEWHERE IN ITALY.
 2. THE TWO ARE BELIEVED TO BE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SIX EXPLOSIONS AT FLORENCE DC OFFICES SATURDAY NIGHT APRIL 2 AND THE BOMB DISCOVERED AND DISARMED AT DC REGIONAL COMMITTEE HEADQUARTERS IN FLORENCE. "LA NAZIONE" REPORTED THAT IT HAD RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL SUNDAY FROM SOMEONE CLAIMING TO REPRESENT "REPARTI COMUNISTI DI COMBSB CORRECT TO COMBATTIMENTO"
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AND CLAIMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR PLACING THE BOMBS WHICH ARE SAID TO HAVE BEEN POWERFUL AND FAIRLY SOPHISTICATED. THOSE WHICH EXPLODED ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE DONE CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE.

3. THESE MOST RECENT BOMBINGS AGAINST THE FLORENCE DC OFFICES REPRESENT THE SECOND KNOWN SUCH EFFORTS THIS YEAR. MOLOTOV COCKTAILS WERE THROWN AT FLORENCE DC OFFICES IN JANUARY. FOUR

YOUTHS WERE ARRESTED AND CHARGED IN THAT CASE APPARENTLY UNRELATED TO THE APRIL 2 BOMBINGS. PL POLICE AUTHORITIES HAVE INDICATED THZT THEY WILL INVESTIGATE THE MANY CLUES FOUND IN STEFANO NERI'S FLORENCE APARTMENT. PRESUMABLY THERE EXISTS SOME HOPE OF TRYING NERI AND BANDOLI READ TYING NERI AND BANDOLI TO OTHERS AND TO SOME OF THE BURGEONING POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN FLORENCE IN RECENT MONTHS, INCLUDING TWO HIGH EXPLOSIVE DETONATIONS AT THE COURT OF APPEALS MARCH 17, FIRING AND THROWING MOLOTOV COCKTAILS AT A CARABINIERI POST MARCH 31, MOLOTOV COCKTAILS THROWN AT THE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE MARCH 22, BOMB AND MACHINEGUN ATTACK AT A LOCAL PRISON FEBRUARY 12 AND DYNAMITE EXPLOSIONS AT THE PALAZZO DEGLI AFFARI JANUARY 25. IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE, THERE HAVE BEEN A VARIETY OF LESS SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS INVOLVING ASSAULTS AND MOLOTOV COCKTAILSTHROWN AT SUNDRY TARGETS WHICH CONSTITUTE A SIGNIFICANT INCREASEIN POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN NORMALLY TRANQUIL FLORENCE. BOTH THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE TUSCAN REGIONAL COUNCIL HAVE MET ON THIS PROBLEM AND SENT PROTESTS TO PREFECT AND APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN ROME AND FLORENCE READ TO THE PREFECT OF FLORENCE AND APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN ROME.

5. COMMENT. THESE EVENTS AS WELL AS THOSE MAJOR DISTURBANCES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORENCE HAVE COMBINED TO CREATE BOTH CONCERN AND AGITATION ON THE PART OF THE FLORENCE CITIZENRY AND PRESSURES ARE MOUNTING FOR TIGHTENED SECURITY MEASURES.
GORDON

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